NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE

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REPORT

ON

TRIP TO THE YUKON

BY

INSPECTOR W. H. SCARTH.

OTTAWA
GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU
1897

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE

DIARY

OF

INSPECTOR W. N. SCARTH

ON HIS WAY TO THE

YUKON

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NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE,
FORT CONSTANTINE, 17th June, 1897.

The Officer Commanding
Yukon Detachment,
Fort Constantine.

SIR,—I have the honour to inclose herewith a daily diary of my trip to this post from Regina, from the 8th April, 1897, to the 12th June, 1897, both dates inclusive:—

Thursday, April 8th.—Left Regina at 11 a.m., on No. 1. Assistant Commissioner McIllree in command, with S. Sergt. Bates, Corporals Crites, Conway, Belcher and Green, and Constables Sabourin, Healy, Snell, Carter, Graham and Stuart. At Maple Creek 4 p.m. Constable Donnelly joined party; received 4 pairs of buck mitts from O.C. "A" Division for issue to members of party. Issued them.

Friday, April 9th.—The Commissioner, A. S. M. Davis and Constables Aspinall, Dundas, Broster, McCulloch, Good, Saunders and Smith came on board in early a.m. Delayed few hours east of Donald by mud slide. When crossing slide track slipped 18 inches. Commissioner left party at Donald. Encountered snow slide between Summit and Glacier House. Train delayed four hours. Raining all day.

Saturday, April 10th.—Fine bright day. Vancouver at 6 p.m.; boat for Victoria had left. Found comfortable hotel for men. Assist. Commissioner and self went to "Vancouver Hotel."

Sunday, April 11th.—Bright warm day. Parade of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Regiment of Canadian Artillery to church. Most of party were taken over C.P.R. Co.'s steamship "Empress of Japan." Left for Victoria on steamer "Charmer" at 1.30 p.m.; good trip across. Chief of Police Hussey met party at wharf. N.C. officers and constables were quartered at the Occidental Hotel, the Asst. Commissioner and self at Driard. S. Sergt. Bates two days' leave for purpose of visiting uncle at Nanaimo.

Monday, April 12th.—Fine day, very warm. E. Fearon, M.L.A. for Maple Creek, in Victoria. S. Sergt. Bates returned off pass. Issued lined stable clothing to members of party, 21 suits, 4 remaining packed up to be taken back by Asst. Commissioner.

Tuesday, April 13th.—Fine day. Asst. Commissioner received telegram, "Outfit in Victoria." purchased 21 slickers, gum-boots and sou'-westers at J. Pierey & Co.'s. Men marched to Pierey's store and issued with one each of above articles, received one myself. Men taken through H.M.S. "Pheasant" to-day, only boat in port. Corporal Conway and Constables Saunders, Good, Smith and Aspinall each received $10 advance on May pay.

Wednesday, April 14th.—Fine day. Sworn in as postmaster at Fort Cudahy; gave bonds $250; received $50 in postage stamps, also mail for Klondyke and Fort Cudahy. Men went through marine barracks and fort to-day.

Thursday, April 15th.—Fine day. "City of Topeka" came in early a.m.; boarded her at 10 a.m. Uniform ordered and worn by men—lined duck jackets, breeches without stripes, long boots without spurs and broad brimmed felt hats. Left Victoria at 11.30 a.m. Number of miners from Nanaimo and bound for Yukon came on board.

Friday, April 16th.—Fine day; very fine scenery. Passed steamer "Alki" going south. Slight swell in Queen Charlotte Sound.

Saturday, April 17th.—Fine day. Stopped at St. Mary's island to report to customs officers. Passed steamer "Mexico" south bound. Passed a coal steamer south bound. Passed wreck of steamer "Willapa," wrecked in a snowstorm in March last. Stopped at Loring late in the evening.

Sunday, April 18th.—Fine day. Fort Wrangel reached in a.m.; saw very fine specimens of totem poles, also very large salmon (60 lbs.). I read English Church service in the saloon in the afternoon.

Monday, April 19th.—Raining hard. Arrived at Juneau in early a.m. Went to Occidental and Franklin hotels. Asst. Commissioner purchased further supplies from Decker Bros., also 14 pairs of ankle boots for members of party who did not have any. Steamer "Alex." engaged to take us to Dyea. Customs officer would not let her leave port with our party, as she was only licensed to carry 12. Very large number of saloons in this town; great deal of gambling.

Tuesday, April 20th.—Raining hard. Schooner "Sealight" engaged to take our party to Dyea. Advanced $5 each on May pay to Sergeants Davis and Bates. Great deal of jealously between owners of ships engaged in this carrying business. The captain of a small steamer called the "Seolin," vents his spite on our crew by knocking them down and otherwise illtreating them, and swearing he will not let the boat sail (the crew consists of two men). The "Seolin" captain then goes up town, meets captain of "Sealight," knocks him down and proceeds to thrash him when both are run in by Deputy Marshall. Our captain is finally bailed out for $50 and we get away at 9 p.m., having intended to leave at 6. We are packed like sardines, 30 men including the crew, 4 dogs, and about 13 tons of cargo. Cabin almost entirely filled up by small gasolene engine.

Wednesday, April 21st.—Cold raw day. Up Chilkoot Inlet before good stiff breeze, pass steamer "Rustler" southbound, hear she had a narrow escape on north bound trip running into an iceberg. Arrived at Dyea at 4 p.m. Side coming out, captain ran us on sandbar instead of going up the river, in very short we were left high and dry a long distance out from the shore. Made camp about 2 miles from sea shore close to Healy & Wilson's trading port. Had everthing up at the camp by 11 p.m. with aid of wagon and team hired by Assistant Commissioner. Assistant Commissioner stops with Herron, manager of trading port. Good sized Indian village here; two saloons. Indians are very well dressed and appear well to do. Large number of people here who are constantly moving north.

Thursday, April 22nd.—Fine day. Not well, off duty all day. Men employed cutting firewood, &c.

Friday, April 23rd.—Fine day. Still off duty. Assistant Commissioner made arrangements with Herron to pack our outfit to mouth of Canyon. Detailed N. C. O. and four constables to go up with camp outfit and instructed them to keep moving the stuff. Steamer "Rustler" arrives from Juneau with large number of people. Schooner "Sealight" gets away to day.

Saturday, April 24th.—Fine day. Party detailed yesterday start out in a.m.; Herron starts out with some of our outfit with a wagon and four horse team and 11 pack ponies. Corp. Green in charge of party detailed. Assistant Commissioner Sergt. Bates and myself accompany party. Ten miles to mouth of Canyon; very bad travelling as there is no road. River is crossed and recrossed about 15 times, huge boulders strewn all along the valley making the walking very hard. People are camped all the way along. We pass men, women and children with packs on their backs and it seems to be killing work. Large number of people camped at mouth of Canyon. Assistant Commissioner, Sergt. Bates and self ride back in wagon.

Sunday, April 25.—Fine day. Steamer "Seolin" arrived from Juneau; lands her passengers and their outfit on a barge a long way out from shore. Our men and other people help them to land themselves and stores above high tide mark.

Monday, April 26th.—Fine day. Herron packed another lot of our stuff to-day. I take S. M. Davis and rest of party, with exception of Staff-Sergeant Bates, Corp. Carter and three men, up to mouth of Canyon. Arrive about 1.30 p.m. and pitch camp. Party sent up on Saturday have moved further on and taken all the stuff sent up with them as far as Pleasant Camp, 2½ miles further on. Pack trail to Pleasant Camp, built by Healy, is used to pass around Canyon. Make two trips half way to Pleasant Camp with packs. Very hard work. The trail starts off with an abrupt rise of about 100 ft., and from now on it is a continual succession of rises till an altitude of about 1,200 ft., above the creek is reached, the trail runs alongside of Canyon and creek can be seen away below a mere thread. From here down to Pleasant Camp the road gradually descends for 100 ft. or so until we are on a level with the creek again. A good deal of money has been spent on this trail, but it is a very bad one, especially at this time of the year, the slush and mud

making it very slippery, so that one's foothold is not very secure, and nasty falls are a frequent occurrence. As most of outfit is put up in 50 pound sacks (this is the usual load, although some of the stronger members of the party took 100 pounds every trip), the trip to Pleasant Camp and back takes about three hours. The Indians pack very heavy loads, some of them taking from 150 to 200 pounds, they charge 13½c. per pound from Dyea to the summit, about 16 miles. Hear of a great deal of stealing further up the pass. Asst. Commissioner gave me $300 to account for.

Tuesday, April 27th.—Snowed during night. Fine, bright morning. Herron arrived with remainder of outfit. Staff-Sergt. Bates and party arrived from Dyea. Sent five men on to keep moving outfit on to Sheep Camp. Make six trips to-day, party very tired.

Wednesday, April 28th.—Snowing heavily during night. Fine morning. A man packing over trail fell about 20 feet into a gulch running alongside of trail; was unhurt. Corp. Green sent Staff-Sergt. Bates on to see him. Asst. Commissioner arrived from Dyea. Made six trips to-day.

Thursday, April 29th.—Moved camp right through to Sheep Camp this morning. Sleighing from Pleasant Camp to Sheep Camp, about two miles, very hard work; ground is bare in places and snow is soft. Assent very gradual. Trail runs very close to river in places, and slopes towards it, making it hard to keep sleighs from going in. Constable Donnelly had a nasty fall to-day. Big camp here.

Friday, April 30th.—Rained all night, raining in morning. S. M. Davis and party left for Pleasant Camp to bring up remainder of outfit. Everything here by 2 p.m., just in time as sleighing has given out. Asst. Commissioner engaged Indian chief Isaac to pack our stuff to the summit for 5c. a pound. Two thefts reported this morning; one man had all his bacon stolen, another had a pair of rubber boots taken. Large number of people here, see lots of horses going in, all look in good condition. Some people on this side of the summit have been here since January. Saw American Customs officer to-day on his way to Dyea; has been accompanying man named Sullivan through Alaska to the boundary line (the summit). Sullivan has a permit to take 2,000 gallons of whisky into British Columbia, and had his outfit bonded through U. S. Territory. Has 200 10 gallon kegs. Two saloons in this place. Saw some Indians very drunk.

Saturday, May 1st.—Dull and cloudy. Indians start packing, 20 of them at work. Send N. C. O. and 4 men over the summit with instructions to camp at Lake Linderman. Two thefts reported this morning. Man named Knight had sled stolen, another man had all his spare canvas stolen. Advanced Const. Donnelly $14 on May pay, which the Asst. Commissioner kindly undertook to deliver to Sp. Const. Patterson, of Maple Creek, for him.

Sunday, May 2nd.—Fine bright day. Indians packing. Sent eight more men over the summit. Asst. Commissioner went up to summit. Rained in p.m. Corp. Green returned from Dyea; reported steamship "Mexico" had arrived with 47 passengers.

Monday, May 3rd.—Fine bright morning. All up at 4 a.m. Asst. Commissioner handed over command of party to me, and we left at 5.30. Indians packing remainder of outfit. Asst. Commissioner remains at Sheep camp. Timber gets much sparser and scrubbier as we get higher up the pass. Gradual ascent for about 2 miles, snow getting heavier and deeper as we go on to Stone House. Here is the end of the timber and the foot of the snow line. From now on to the foot of the summit, 1½ miles, very steep ascent. Pass narrows considerably near foot of summit. There is a sort of tramway running up to the top of the summit from here, which is run by horse power. It is only a sled let up and down by a rope which is passed round a dead man at the top. To the right of this is a place where the ascent is not quite so steep; here most people go up. This is about a 1,200 feet sheer climb. A couple of hundred yards walk to the west, around a couple of peaks, brings us to where our outfit has been left by the Indians. At times the summit cannot be crossed for days on account of the severe storms which rage along the crest of the mountains.

There is a steep descent from the summit to Crater Lake, which people say is the crater of an extinct volcano. Setting an outfit down on to the lake is easy, two sleds are lashed together, their loads being securely lashed also, and then they are started,

the impetus gathered in the descent sends them away out on to the lake. All our sleds got away safely. Crossing the lake and keeping the right side of the pass, we come to the Canyon about five miles from the summit, to here the going is fairly easy, as we can sit on the sleds and toboggans down the descents; (two men to each sled with about 500 lbs. to each sled). From here to Lake Linderman the trail is very bad; the warm weather has softened the snow and ice, and has caused the trail to be cut up fearfully. The trail is very narrow, turns are so sharp, the descents so steep, and in places where the river is open it takes all that two men can do to prevent the sled from sliding down into it. Sometimes one or other of the party goes through the ice and snow into the river up to his waist or sometimes his neck, arrive at Linderman at 8.45 p.m., wet through and all dead tired. Large camp here. Man doing stealing about sheep camp was caught to-day.

Tuesday, May 4th.—Fine day. Sent four men over to head of Lake Bennett, and 12 men back to summit for remainder of outfit. Party to Bennett took 1,600 lbs. in p.m. S. M. Davis and Staff-Sergeant Bates and Corporals Carter and Constable Carter with two sleds, 1,000 lbs. on each, and self with 500 lbs. on a sled, crossed Lake Linderman in p.m. about five miles across, easy going, lake is open at the foot, land our stuff and pile it on the shore, send word to Lake Bennett party to portage it over. Took five and a quarter hours for the round trip. Best time to travel is in the early morning, as the ice gets soft and slushy towards mid-day. Party to summit return about 6 p.m. Report Canyon breaking up very quickly, no more travelling on it after to-day. People will have to pack round it. All our outfit here now. Corporal Conway reports that thief caught yesterday at sheep camp, was traced by a committee of miners, who confiscated all his goods and sold them for the benefit of a "miner's library," to be established at Klondyke. They gave him 50 cents and told him to keep out of Canadian territory if he valued his health. All the party burnt as red as beets. No snow blindness yet. Constable McCulloch complaining of pains in his eyes, and Sergt. Bates placed him off duty. Bad camping place here.

Wednesday, May 5. All up at 3 a.m., break camp at 6 a.m. Nine sleds have about 600 pounds each on them, two men to a sled. We go down lake at a good pace, reaching the foot at about 8.10 a.m. Bennett party had moved everything over to head of Bennett. Portage from here to Bennett of one mile, very hard, only small loads can be taken; at some places takes three or four men to move the sled, snow entirely gone in places. Reach Lake Bennett about 11 a.m., where party sent over yesterday are camped. Good camping ground, perfectly dry, and lots of firewood; only drawback, very much exposed to the wind. Large camp here, a great many people building boats, some have their boats built. There is a saw-mill about west of here at the mouth of river, which turns out about 1,000 ft. per day. It has a small 14-in. saw and is run by steam. Lumber sells at $70 per 1,000 ft., the timber being supplied by the purchaser. Mill is owned and run by man named Rudolph. He also builds boats and sells them for $55. A great many people purchase these, and he cannot supply the demand for lumber. Timber is pretty well cut out at head of lake, and has to be brought from some distance back. S. M. Davis and party making masts and sails for sleds. Detailed Const. Sabourin as cook. Bought pair of snowshoes for $4, as people say it is impossible to go hunting without them. Indian grave about half down from Linderman with United States flag flying from a staff. Read Asst. Commissioner's last orders to the men at supper. Very violent wind from the north about 7.30 p.m.; blew nearly all the tents down, accompanied by alternate showers of rain and snow. Did not get our tents up until about one or two in morning. Hear there is a large number of people bringing in whisky, saw no signs of it.

Thursday, May 6. Strong wind from north this morning. Did not start as men were worn out, having been up nearly all night. Man named Weisner came to see me with a letter from man at Dyea, who had a permit from Governor of Alaska to take 200 gallons of whisky to Circle city, wanting to know how to get it through British Territory. Told him to tell his friend to report to Customs officer at Cudahy, and not to open the liquor up on this side of the boundary line. Hard frost last night.

Friday, May 7th.—All up at 3 a.m. Sun not up, made a start at 4.45, no wind. Going good as there was a frost last night. About five miles down Lake was open, started round edge, strong south wind came up, when we put up our sails which helped

us along considerably. About 10 a.m. came to another open spot in the ice about 12 miles down the Lake near Monument Island. Ice very soft and bad to travel on by this time. Made a camp in a little cove opposite the Island on west side of Lake. This seems to be place mentioned by inspector Constantine in his diary on the 17th July, 1894, where he built his boat. Good big patch of timber all around us. As ice is getting so bad will try and make permanent camp at Wheaton river which we ought to reach to-morrow. As Lake is open right across, send party in p.m. to put snow in etc. on bare spots along the beach, about ¼ mile of this. Two men camped here are going to build their boats here. Little creek comes in opposite camp on East side of Lake, little placer mining was done here about three years ago, but it did not pay well enough and was abandoned. Very warm day.

Saturday, May 8th.—All up at 2.30 a.m. Chilly and snowing a little, not much frost last night. Got away at 4.15, took us an hour and a quarter to make the ¼ mile round point which I spoke of yesterday. From this point the Lake widens considerably. Ice soft and slushy, we keep near the West shore, but continually break through the upper crust, (there is good solid ice underneath) so take the centre of the Lake where the ice is firmer. About 4 miles down we come to West Arm of Lake Bennett, meet a man with a dog team going South here, ask if Lake is safe across to Wheaton river, he said yes, that the centre is better than along the edge. (Wheaton river is about 5 miles from where we are.) On proceeding a little, the ice looks to me unsafe and I was on the point of giving orders to turn back, when my sleigh which was on the lead broke through and the others all broke through, with the exception of three, fortunately only one runner of each sled broke through. I find we have only about two inches of rotten ice between us and deep water. The firm ice is about 100 yards back. We unpack the sleds and pack the stuff back to the firm ice, and then haul the sleds back, every step we take the ice can be seen bending under us. I keep the men from crowding together, and only one sleigh goes through altogether but this is close to the firm ice, and we haul it out with ropes. Const. Good went right through but pulled himself out by hanging on to the sled. I then make for the east shore which is nearest (about ¼ mile) on a strip of firm ice with all posssible speed, as the sun is getting very warm, and has a visible effect on the ice, and reach shore thankful that no lives or stores have been lost. Fortunately for us the ice was elastic, and not brittle. As there is a good camping place here, and plenty of timber, and as ice is getting so bad decide to make permanent camp here. People building boats all along the lake, patches of good timber all the way down. Wrote to Asst. Commissioner and the Comptroller, as I hear there is a man going down to Dyea in a couple of days. Bought another pair of snowshoes for $4. The snow glasses used by us are not suited for this kind of travelling, the mica becomes clouded over with the steam so as to prevent our seeing anything, and the heat from the face melts the glue and they come apart. Chilkoot Pass not by any means as bad as it is painted, earlier in the year we would have found the crossing easy.

Sunday May 9th.—Fine bright day, rain during night, by 10 a.m. ice unfit to travel on. Allowed men to sleep in late. Sharpened saws, built a latrine, and slung all the bacon out to dry, and generally made the camp comfortable. Spread everything out to dry as everything had got wet. Routine for camp, as follows:

Reveille,	6.30	Week days, except Sunday, when I allow men to get up when they like.
Breakfast,	7.15	
Work,	8.	
Dinner,	12.	
Work,	1.30	
Supper,	6.	

This makes 8½ hours work a day. All blankets to be aired once a week, allow Saturday afternoon for washing, etc., constable Healy detailed as assistant cook.

Monday, 10th May.—Fine day no wind, party of 12 under Constable Good started to get out timber and erect saw pit. Man named Aldridge came down lake this morning, was making for weak ice when he was warned by S. M. Davis. Got out about 14 logs, started whip sawing in P.M. S. M. Davis making trestles, work bench, etc. Sent Corporal Belcher back to put up notice that ice was unsafe north of west arm.

Tuesday, 11th May.—Fine day strong wind from south. Men whip sawing S. M. Davis and Staff-Sergt. Bates making frame work, of 1st. scow. Have decided to build three scows, 24 ft. long on top by 5 ft. 6-in., and 2ft. in depth. Corporal Conway off duty. Man from foot of lake reports that Indians are catching lots of fish ; detailed party to go down with three days rations taking the fish net. Sent party out hunting, returned with nothing. Man camped below us shot a bear yesterday. Raining in p.m.

Wednesday, 12th May.—Fine morning, rained during night. Wind from south. Party detailed yesterday did not leave, as we found that the meshes of the net were too big for any fish caught in these, 7¼ in. mesh and net used is 3½ in. Our net is a salmon net, and they do not come up river until July. Men whip sawing, others cutting firewood, etc., Corporal Conway to duty to-day. Lake open in centre, raining in p.m. S. M. Davis and Staff-Sergeant Bates working on 1st scow. Put out night line.

Thursday, May 13th.—Raining this morning, wind from south. Men whip-sawing. S. M. and S. Sergt. Bates preparing lumber and working on boats. Have about sixteen logs sawed up now ; build new saw-pit nearer camp, and get more logs out. Const. Good invaluable at this kind of work : place him in charge of all working parties. Corps. Carter and Green out hunting, returned empty-handed ; no fish on night line.

Friday, May 14th.—Fine day, wind from south ; snowed and froze last night. Men whip-sawing. S. M. and Bates at work on scow. Corp. Carter and Const. Sabourin out hunting. Corp. Green acting cook. Aldridge returned this a.m., had dinner in camp ; did not get to Dyea ; he hired a man to take outfit down for $15, who also took my letters. Man named Sam Healy, brother of T. C. Healy, of the N. A. T. and T. Co., camped near us, represents an English syndicate. Corp. Conway off duty in p.m. Hunting party returned with one grouse and one rabbit.

Saturday, May 15th.—Fine day, wind from south ; hard frost last night. Lake opening up rapidly. Men whip-sawing in a.m. All blankets aired to day. Climbed mountain behind us, and went back into the country a bit. Any quantity of timber where the country has not been burnt. Pitch pine, spruce, balsalm, cottonwood and and poplar. Wheaton river valley seems well timbered. Grouse and rabbit in the shape of bouillon a great treat after nearly a month of bacon. Saw fresh moose tracks close to camp. Corp. Conway still off duty. We fish every day and night, but catch no fish. Hear that there is lots of liquor at the head of the lake being sold, but that is in British Columbia.

Sunday, May 16th.—Fine day, very warm, hard frost last night, no wind.

Monday, May 17th.—Fine day, wind from south, very warm ; first scow ready for caulking. Men whip-sawing. Fatigue party cutting wood.

Tuesday 18th May.—Fine day in the morning, ice beginning to move out of lake very rapidly, wind from south, started to rain about 10 a.m., men whip-sawing and cutting firewood. Corp. Green and Const. Saunders caulking 1st scow, Sergt.-Major and Bates started building second scow.

Wednesday, 19th May. —Fine day, very warm, no wind. Lake entirely open except at lower end, 1st scow finished and launched to-day. Men whipsawing. Sergt. Major and men at work on boat No. 2.

Thursday, 20th May.—Fine day, heavy wind in p.m. All timber cut is whip-sawed. Two more logs needed. Got them about a mile back, put up saw-pit there and sawed them up. Sergt.-Major on No. 2 boat.

Friday, 21st May.—Fine day, strong south wind, ice running hard. No. 2 scow ready for caulking, erected small wharf. All lumber required is now cut, some planks we got 24 ft. by 12 in., and all the rest were good sized. Men caulking No. 2 scow. Sergt.-Major and men on No. 3. Man named Jackson came to camp to try and borrow nails, had none to spare.

Saturday, 22nd May.—Fine day, calm. Lake clear of ice, two men left for Wheaton river with 2 days rations in Indian canoe found near here to hunt. Number of small boats passed down lake to-day. Blankets aired. No. 2 scow ready for launching. Men cutting firewood and cleaning up round camp.

Sunday, 23rd May.—Fine day ; party sent out yesterday return this morning ; went up river about 15 miles ; saw no game ; but say river is full of beaver, very shallow rapid stream, dense growth on each side, ground swampy on each side. No. 2

scow launched to-day; man who had permit for 200 galls. of whisky to Circle City called on me to-day; told him same as I told his friend Weisner. Rained about 7 p.m. Another man tried to borrow nails to-day.

Monday, 24th May.—Rained all night, wind from the south turned out fine. Several people, called to take a pattern of our scows. No. 3 scow ready for caulking; rained in p.m., for a few hours. In the evening the men built a huge bonfire, toasted Her Majesty in a cup of hot tea, sang the national anthem, and gave three cheers and a tiger for Her Majesty.

Tuesday, 25th May. Fine day, strong south wind: party of five sent out to gather pitch pine gum, rest of men making oars, sails, spars, etc., and caulking No. 3 scow, three more men took dimensions of our scows. Corps. Green and Carter out hunting but got nothing.

Wednesday, 26th May.—Cloudy, wind from south. No. 3 scow finished, all three rigged and launched in p.m. Large number of boats passed down to-day; very great variety in style and make of boats built, one passed down to-day 30 feet long by 4 feet wide. Several people have torn their boats to pieces and built similar scows to ours.

Thursday, 27th May.—Packing outfit, ready to make a start to-morrow morning. Large number of boats went down to-day. Fine day, strong wind from south. We are the only ones who came up on the "Topeka" who have got as far down as this.

Friday, 28th May.—Cloudy, but calm, very hot, no wind for first time in twenty days. Start from camp at 8 a.m., S. M. Davis and seven men in one scow, steered by Const. Carter, Staff-Sergt. Bates and six men in another steered by Const. Saunders, myself and six men in a third steered by Const. Good. An ex-policeman named Ross makes the twenty-second member of the party, he is travelling in with us. Lashed all three boats together at noon and lunched on board. S. M. Davis's boat is the cook boat. About five miles down lake get a head wind. Got into Cariboo Crossing about 2 p.m., have had to row since we started (four oars to each scow, one man to an oar). Channels very shallow and full of sand bars, ran aground several times, to avoid this we should have kept close to the left bank in the left channel. Very shallow all through crossing, coming into "lake Naxis" find it very rough with strong head wind, have to go down to nearly end of lake before we can make landing, as shores on each side very shallow. Got into camp about 4.30, boats all leaked a little to-day, good timber all the way down. Const. Sabourin off duty with sore eye.

Saturday 29th May.—Very hot day. Left at 8 a.m.; mosquitoes bad last night. Out of Lake Naxis into Tagish, where we found the water very shallow, especially along the north shore, pass that bugaboo of all travellers over this route, the "windy arm" and do not get a breath of wind; very hard rowing in the hot sun, lunch on the boats, supper at 5.30, after we make the turn of the lake, trolling all day, only got one fish, lost two spoons, nearly all had a swim at the supper camp. After supper start on again, cannot find a camping place, as it is too shallow to land until we reach the foot of the lake, when we land under a small cut bank, lake only from two to three feet deep at this end. Made camp at about 11.30 p.m. Mosquitoes awful to-night.

Sunday, 30th May.—Raining this morning, left camp at 8 a.m., entrance to river, very shallow and full of rocks, pretty good current. Low flat country on each side, mountains away in the background, very swampy, country well wooded. About four miles down pass Tagish houses on east bank. There are five houses and a big shed, and several little houses, these latter are evidently burial places as they contain trunks with ashes in them, this tribe cremate their dead. The houses were well built, two being shingled, they contained all sorts of articles of a first-class quality, the place was deserted. One house had the following sign on it: "Gon to Youkon for two year. White man leave alone. Sgd Stevenson."

The most of these Indians go down to the coast in the summer. At head of Lake Marsh, find a lot of people camped who say there is an ice jam down the lake. These people are camped on a swamp, so I decided to go down the lake further. Go down the lake about 8 miles before a good wind, where I find a good camping place on east shore. Has been raining hard all day. About 200 boats are stopped at this end by the jam, two of party out hunting this a.m., saw nothing, we saw hundreds of wild fowl on

the lake, but they were too wild. Sabourin better to-day, no mosquitoes to-night. All along these lakes the shores are shallow.

Monday, 31st May.—Did not move out to-day. Four men out hunting, got one grouse; cooks baking bread; strong wind from south. Unloaded all the stuff to dry it out and reloaded boats again to-night. Have had fish net out every night and never caught anything, is packed away for good.

Tuesday, 1st June.—Fine day, wind from south, made good time down lake, into Lewis river by 2.30. The shortest and best route into river is the channel to west of Island keeping well to the west bank, we all ran aground by not keeping close enough in. McClintock river comes in here. Indian graves on a point just at the end of the lake. River very shallow and current slack for first 8 or 10 miles. Current then begins to get swifter, river twists and turns like a corkscrew. Ran across some Indians, bought about 3 lbs. of cariboo meat for 75c. About 16 miles down river made supper camp and on after supper for four miles. Got three ducks. Came 40 miles today, are close to Miles Canyon. Men all well and in best of spirits.

Wednesday, 2nd June.—Fine day, no wind, nice and cool, current very much swifter. No sign of the cut bank of sand near the canyon, as on taking a sudden turn to the left, we see what is unmistakably the mouth of the canyon one-quarter of a mile ahead where the river takes another bend to the right. Red flags and other danger signals are hung out all along the bank to warn people. We pull into right bank and tie up. Go up on to cliffs above the canyon, and see two boats go through. The walls are from 60 ft. to 80 ft. high and perpendicular, and the water rushes through like a mill-race. One glance is sufficient to show one the utter absurdity of trying to line boats down, it being an impossibility. One must keep in the centre on the comb of the waves in the very roughest part, and with a cool hand steering there is absolutely no danger. Loaded boats seem to go down steadiest, so I decide to leave everything in the scows. Any men who do not wish to go down I allow to walk round. My own boat went through first, then S. M. Davis's, both without a mishap. Staff Sergt. Bates's boat through the unsteadiness of one of the crew, was thrown off the comb and was dashed into the rock wall, no harm resulted, however, and they came through the rest safely. Camped for lunch below canyon. Man named Peters, bringing in a trading outfit with a stock $1,200 worth of goods, ran into the side of the canyon taking off a whole corner of his scow. In spite of the big hole he came through safely. He had a horse and mule on board. He was selling his damaged stock, and will have nothing to pay duty on by the time he gets in. There are a number of people selling goods along the trail, which were brought in for that purpose.

From Canyon to White Horse River is very bad, being full of sunken boulders and rocks with a very swift current. We all struck two or three times, but did no serious damage. Landed on left bank about a mile above the chute in the White Horse Rapids, and lined one boat at a time down to the chute where we dragged them up on to a sheet of ice, and pulled them across the ice to the lower end of chute, about 300 yards. There is a large sheet of ice on the left bank. There is very poor foothold along the river bank, and people lining boats down look more like mountain goats than anything else jumping from rock to rock. The chute is the worst part of the rapids. Made camp just below rapids. Two boats were wrecked attempting to shoot rapids, one man only slightly damaged his scow and wet his outfit, the other lost all his outfit, 500 lbs. or 600 lbs. and nearly lost his life, his boat was smashed to pieces. Two men took two boats down the rapids, making two trips and got through safely. These, I believe, are the only men who have run the rapids this year. They took 21 boats through the cañyon at $5.00 a trip. Const. Donnelly slightly strained his ankle while lining scows down. River very muddy and full of small rapids, impossible to see the rocks. This is the only way to get through the cañyon, unless the boats are let go through alone, which is too much of a chance to take.

Thursday, 3rd June.—Fine day, very warm. Pulled boats off the ice into the river again and were away by 10 o'clock. One party of men in a big scow whom we had helped at various times along the trail, sent a spokesman and presented me with a box of cigars for the party as a token of their gratitude for help rendered by our men. Large numbers af people camped at the White Horse. River below rapids very swift and full

of boulders, &c., for about five miles; current gets slacker and obstructions fewer. Stopped for noon below "Tahkema River," a wide river running into Lewes, about 14 miles below White Horse. Indians told me Dalton has a trading post sixty miles up this river. Passed large number of bush fires in the last three days, started by people leaving their camp fires a light. Head of Lake Lebarge at 6.39: camp on left bank of river: good camping place; unload boats and haul them out on beach. Mosquitoes very bad.

Friday, 4th June.—Fine warm day. Re-pitching scows all day, loaded up boats ready to start in morning. Cooks baking bread. Put on three extra men. There is an Indian village about a mile across from the river, on Lake LeBarge, 200 Indians there in winter, all go hunting in summer. Chief of tribe very wealthy for an Indian, said to have about $2,000 worth of skins and furs. Traded some rations for ten good sized whitefish. Heard that man named Peterson, a big Swede whom Assistant Commissioner will remember as helping Herron to pack at Dyea came to grief in the canyon, and lost some of his outfit: small boat passed down the rapids bottom up, no one reported lost as yet. Man named Gilkie informed me they had learned from Indians of the death of a white man on Marsh Lake, near the island. He understood them to intimate that the man had been shot. Indians took Gilkie to his grave, which had a rude head board cut from the stump of a tree with the following inscription:—"Thompson, died 16th May, 1897," with the symbol of some order underneath. Indians said he belonged to party of six men from Nanaimo, who came up on the Mexico. Will inquire along road and report matters to Inspector Constantine.

Four men out hunting to-day. Corporal Green brought back a "prairie chicken." Constable Donnelly to duty.

Saturday, 5th June.—Fine day, wind from south. All up at 4 a.m., away at 5.10; mouth of river full of sandbars, middle channel correct one. Fair wind to Richtofen island, nine miles when wind dropped until we had rowed past island, 3 miles, had lunch during calm. Strong wind came up then and about 6 p.m. we made foot of lake and entered the river. Large fleet of boats on the lake, some put in on account of strong wind. Made supper, camp two miles up river, sand bar across mouth. Good timber in patches all along lake. Two big valleys run north from left hand side of lake, Ogilvie and Richtofen. After supper made another twelve miles, where make night camp, very clear water, but swift current and innumerable rocks, keeping us all our time dodging them. About 48 miles to-day. Trolled all day, caught no fish, lost nearly all our trolling spoons down. Saw birch trees to-day. Mosquitoes very bad.

Sunday, 6th June.—Fine day but cold, all up at 3.30 and away at 4.45, very bad water to mouth of Hootalinka, current very swift, kept us all our time dodging rocks. About 9 a.m. saw two men on east bank who waved us into shore, we were on west side and in making crossing my boat was nearly wrecked, found that man named Fitzgerald and his partner had run on a rock and their boat smashed, they climbed on the rock and after two hours were taken off and landed by a passing boat, lost nearly all their stuff. Fitzgerald nearly lost his life, their boat was smashed to pieces, told them of an empty boat lying on the bank up the river and gave them a frying pan and other things. They had saved their bedding and a couple of sacks of provisions. S. M. Davis's boat ran on a rock, no damage done, stopped at Indian camp, 16 fish (about 40 lbs.) for $2.50. We cannot catch fish ourselves, although we have tried every device: nobody seems to, except the Indians. Heard Sullivan had been wrecked in the canyon. Made Hootalinka about 10 a.m., 16 miles from camp. Very wide river and very high, water muddy, making Lewes muddy and raising it to high water mark. This is the river running out of the Lake Teslin waters; current very swift, but river free of boulders. Noon camp six miles below Hootalinka, passed two men poling up the river; 18 miles below Hootalinka, on right bank, passed log cabin; 13 miles further on passed the Cassiar Bar. Great deal of placer mining done on this bar at one time, parties coming in intended to wash on it, but river was too high. Passed Big Salmon River, which comes from the east, seven miles further on, Lewes widens out here considerably. Camped below river for supper; after supper made ten miles, hard to get good landing place, in trying to land stove on cook boat, with camp kettles on it, knocked overboard by boughs of

trees, saved stove and lost camp kettles. Const. Graham nearly knocked overboard. Mosquitoes very bad all day, very hot day; made 64 miles to-day. Current runs about 5 to 6 miles an hour.

Monday, 7th June. Fine day, very warm, mosquitoes bad; up at 7, away at 8. Men wrecked yesterday came into our camp, had picked up more of their stuff, came down on borrowed boat; they returned articles given to them. River still rising; noon camp ten miles below Little Salmon River. Heavy wind in p. m., squally, river full of islands below Little Salmon. Camped on west bank one mile above Nordenskiold River. Some log houses here, evidently traders' places, deserted now, pack trail well worn with horse manure, goes off in south-westerly direction. Lots of Indians camped here at one time from Indian graves, drying stages, &c. Passed some Indians on east bank. Mosquitoes, bull dogs and deer-flys very bad to-day. Passed two or three more bush-fires. Dr. Dawson's 1888 map has proved invaluable; can tell every bend in the river. Made 73 miles to-day. Man told me to-day he had tried Cassiar bar and got good colours. Fitzgerald and partner came into our camp. Am writing, 12.30 a.m. Light as day. Took a photograph of camp ten minutes ago.

Tuesday, June 8th.—Fine day. Mosquitoes awful. Took some of Fitzgerald's stuff on our boats for him. Saw their camp fires left burning. Left camp at 9 a.m. Passed Nordenskiold river at 9.30 a.m., comes in on left bank. Passed two more bush fires. Current getting swifter. About 12.30 came on Five Finger Rapids. Land on right bank and reconnoitre; decide that right channel is the best. Five bold, rocky islets or pillars of rock form five or six channels through which the water rushes. The left hand passage looks impassable. Had lunch and start out again. Got through with no trouble, keeping well to the right all the time. The channel should be entered from the right. The channel is 20 yards wide by about fifty long, and there is a fall of four feet at the entrance; water very rough. Five miles below, on taking a bend to the right see a reef of rocks right ahead of us stretching right across river, keeping right hand bank passed through rapids in almost smooth water. These are the Devil rapids and unless one knows of the channel to the right, to my mind the worst on the river. Twenty miles below camped for supper; after supper went on until 1.30 a.m.; camped near log house. Know we are close to Pelly. Log house here deserted. Little steamer called "Pelly" run up in backwater here. Light as day all night. Heavy rain about 4 p.m. All soaked through. Came 78 miles to-day.

Wednesday, June 9th.—Fine day. Left camp at 9 a.m., and one mile down came to Pelly on south bank. Pelly river comes in from north. Stopped here. Trading post here owned by one Harper; man named Pitt in charge. English church mission here also, has been deserted for two years. There has been no steamer up as far as this for two years. Large number of Indians. Good hay meadow close by, plenty of hay. Two horses here in the pink of condition, belonging to Harper. Large number of skins in stock. Register of people called at Post kept by Pitt. Since 16th May over 550 people have signed their names. He says he has counted 150 people who did not stop. Safe estimate to say 700 people came in this spring. Noted names of five men from Nanaimo all signed on the 24th May, likely to be party who were with Thomson. Their names are Chas. Denning, John Mellish, David Taylor, William Biggs and William Seaborne. Pitt says he heard Thomson was accidentally shot by one of the party. No sign of ruins of old Fort Selkirk. Log house at last night's camp was trading post established by Healy, but abandoned by him. Passed two men poling up river. Man named Dey going out with American mail, told us Ogilvie was two miles behind him on his road to Pelly and was on the lookout for us. About ten miles down came to his camp. Stopped here. Gave Mr. Ogilvie his mail. Tells me he is going to complete some survey at Pelly and then coming back to Dawson. Gave us wonderful accounts of Klondyke diggings. Constable Jenkins a few days ago sold a half interest in his claim for $40,000. River very swift from Pelly down. Came 50 miles to-day.

Thursday, June 10th.—Left camp at 4 a.m., Ogilvie not up, 50 miles down at 11 a.m., passed White River, 3 miles below; came on large Indian camp, bought about 60 or 70 pounds of fresh moose meat for $6. Passed 60 mile post at about 5 p.m., delivered some mail there. Post is on south side of an island right opposite 60 Mile Creek and is very hard to make as current sweeps one right across, river still rising, is full of

islands, very wide and swift current, supper camp about 5.30, 22½ miles below 60 miles, come to Indian river, large number of men camped here, came in Klondyke City at 2 a. m., right bank should be kept to make landing at the town, as the river is very swift here, and current would carry one away below if on left bank. Made 125 miles to-day all very tired, very cold during night.

Friday, June 11th.—Fine day, very warm, let men sleep in, crossed to Dawson City after lunch, delivered Klondyke mail, saw Mr. D. W. Davis and delivered letters to him. Mule came in this morning with 75 lbs. of gold on its back from diggings ($13,000.00). Wages here are from $10 to $15 a day. Reported that party of five are lost, 2 women and 3 men, should have been in long ago. Const. Jowler here on pass, gave him permission to come down with me in morning. People anxiously waiting for Gold Commissioner. Hear that Thomson was accidentally shot by one of the party, who reported himself to inspector Constantine immediately on arrival. It occurred as follows: Party were on ice in Marsh Lake with their boat on sleds, they broke through the ice and had to get their boat off the sleds. After they were all on board and the party were over-hauling their outfit, one of them took his revolver from the sled and thinking it empty commenced to snap it, there was one cartridge, and this exploded, striking Thomson in the stomach and fatally wounding him. He died at 3 a.m. the next morning. People seemed very glad to see us coming in. Was offered from $60.00 to $100.00 for a piece of moose purchased yesterday. Man drowned in Miles Canyon in early part of year while coming down on the ice, he was partially snow blind and went through a crack in the ice before his partners could warn him. Man who was camped about 3 miles above us on Bennett, has never been heard of since he stopped to dinner with us one day on Bennett, his tent and outfit remain there untouched, I have heard from parties who came down since. Hundreds of people here, money very plentiful, gold dust is the medium of exchange.

Saturday, 12th June.—Left Klondyke at 8 a.m., taking constable Jowler and two men who wished to get down to Forty Mile. Came into Fort Constantine and reported to Inspector Constantine at 5.30 p.m. and handed party over in the best of health and condition.

The N. C. O. and men of the party, one and all, have never showed a sign of grumbling at the work however severe, and have worked hard and cheerfully always, their conduct has been of the best and they won everybodys good will by their readiness to help other travellers in their spare time.

S. M. Davis has proved invaluable, and I cannot speak too highly of him.

A large number of fast women are coming in over this trail, and although the majority of the men seem respectable, there is a large number of tough looking cases, I heard frequently that there was lots of whisky sold along the trail but it was kept entirely out of our sight.

The whole trip has been a delightful one and the scenery along this route is unsurpassed by anything I ever saw before. We were all almost sorry when the trip was over.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

W. H. SCARTH,
Inspector.